(b) whether the enactment lacks teeth for practical enforcement;

(c) whether delayed payment can be treated as "unpaid" for the purpose of Income-tax; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government to enforce the enactment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sections 4 to 9 of the Act provide sufficient strength. However, suggestions from State Governments and Small Scale Industry have also been invited in order to explore the possibilities of further strengthening the act.

(c) Clause 9 of the Act provides that notwithstanding anything contained in the Income-tax Act, 1961, the amount of interest payable or paid by any buyer, under or in accordance with the provisions of this Act, shall not, for the purpose of computation of income under the Income-tax Act, 1961 be allowed as deduction.

(d) Necessary guidelines through administrative Ministries and others concerned for effective enforcement of the Act have been issued from time to time.

Financial Assistance from UNIDO for Small Scale Industries

6416. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: (a) whether United Nations Industrial Development Organisation is giving financial assistance/aid directly or through financial institutions in our country for small and medium industries, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) what is the minimum/maximum limit of financial assistance/aid for particular project/projects;

(c) whether UNIDO also arranges foreign technical know how for sophisticated products with Buy-Back arrangement, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what is the annual financial development budget and aid for the year 1995-96 for our country, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) UNIDO provides technical assistance in the main, to client countries for projects financed either by funds managed by itself or by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), development banks, the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the montreal Protocol, etc. No funds are channelled through financial institutions.

The UNIDO has executed a number of UNDP financed projects assisting to set up or strengthen institutions serving the Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SME's). These include the Bicycle Research and Development Centre and the Sewing Machine Development Centre in Ludhiana, the Metal Handicraft Service Centre in Moradabad, the Pressure Die Casting unit in Madras, Products Promotion & Development Centre (PPDC) for Small-Scale Casting and Forging Industries at Agra. On-going projects include the Institute for Auto Parts Technology, PPDC for Essential Oils at Kannauj and the Centre for Glass Industry in Firozabad. Some of UNIDO's own funds have also been used to finance projects benefitting SMEs in India.

(c) UNIDO assists the SME's to locate potential foreign partners with whom arrangements for financial collaboration, technical cooperation, buy-back arrangements, etc. may be persued.

(d) Annual budgets are not prepared for UNIDO assistance to countries. However, individual projects posed by the Government are considered for approval from time to time within UNIDO's norms. In 1994 new technical cooperation projects worth US $ 2.2.

million were approved for India from UNIDO managed resources.

Threat to Paper Industry

6417. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the report appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 11th March, 1995 on the WTO threat to our paper industry; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to protect and strengthen India's newsprint industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the recently announced Newsprint Policy, protective tariff is envisaged, as and when the need arises, to safeguard the interest of the indigenous Newsprint Industry.

High prices of shoes manufactured in the country

6418. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian shoe market is worth over Rupees 8,000 crore but its consumption in the country is just 0.5% of the population;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has the benefit of cheap raw material, labour and an expertise in shoe manufacturing, yet their prices are prohibitory for the masses of the country; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) *The total turn over of the leather industry which includes leather footwear, leather goods, leather garments and finished leather is Rs. 8,000/- crores approximately. The per capita annual consumption of total footwear in the country is around 1.5 pairs and the per capita annual consumption of leather footwear is around 0.5 pairs and the consumption is not restricted to 0.5% of the population.

*Source: Report of the Working Group on Leather & Leather Goods industries for the Eighth Five Year Plan (1990-95).

(b) and (c) Indian raw materials are more or less at international price levels. The high cost of leather shoe arises mainly from the high cost of raw materials and other inputs. However, footwear made of different raw materials is available at various price levels and ranges that are affordable. Government has exempted excise duty on footwear costing up to Rs. 50/- per pair to make it available at a fair price for the masses.

Optical Glasses supplied by BOGL

6419. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3895 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th April, 1995 and state:

(a) the quantity of Optical Glasses indented by Ordnance factories, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Government Hospitals during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and the figure of actual supply during the period; and

(b) the figure of Optical Glasses supplied by Bharat Opthalmic Glass Ltd. out of the demand of the above institutions during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Information is being collected.